4. Economy Package

Particular	Rural	Urban
Monthly Rental	Rs. 150/-	Rs. 300/-
Free calls in MCU	150 MCU	200 MCU
Unit Rate	Rs. 1.20/-perMCU	Rs. 1.20/- per MCU

Provision of computers and internet in rural areas

1353. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided computer and internet facility in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of the schemes launched by Government to implement such programmes in the States; and

(d) how far common man has been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) under its "Internet Dhaba" scheme, provides internet Access to franchisees of Internet Dhabas in the rural Block Headquarters. As on Dec. 31,2005 a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various States in the country. In Uttar Pradesh 296 Internet Dhabas have been set up.

In addition, Department of Information Technology (DIT), has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes:

- NIC has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in North Eastern States with the objective of providing internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

- NIC in collaboration with Maharashtra State Govt, has provided computers and Internet facility as 70 villages under Warana project in Kolhapur and Sangli Districts.

E-Governance Scheme for development of Core infrastructure entitled "State Wide area Network" (SWAN) covering 6000 Blocks, Tahsils and District Hqrs. was approved by the Government in March, 2005 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3334 crore for the entire country out of which estimated expenditure of Rs.2005 crore would be provided as Grant-in-Aid, for be expended over 5 years. Under the Scheme, Project proposals for Uttar Pradesh were sanctioned to the extent of Rs. 168.72 crores.

(d) Internet access through Internet Dhabas and through Community Information Centres etc. in the country will make it affordable to the common man.

Setting up of Bio-IT Park

1354. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to set up a world class Bio-IT Park Project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hyderabad has been considered as one of the possible locations for setting up the Park;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (c) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) and the Department of Biotechnology (OBT), have designed a public-private partnership project for Bio-It Park. The selected private promoter has to choose and ideal location for the Bio-It Park from a short list of six locations *viz.* National Capital region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai.

(e) Does not arise.